

Town of Holland

Sheboygan County, Wisconsin

October 3, 2008

Gene Jentink
Village of Cedar Grove
22 Willow Avenue
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Re: Renegotiation of the Fire Department Agreement

Gene:

This letter is in follow up to the Village's request to open up the Fire Department Agreement for renegotiation, and also fulfills the Town's commitment to provide the Village with a draft of the language changes being requested by the Town. This letter also serves to explain the key changes being requested by the Town and the justification for those requested changes. Likewise, we look forward to receiving the Village's requested changes and the corresponding explanation.

Please review this letter and the attached draft language in the working copy of the agreement, discuss within your Safety Committee and/or Board, and respond in writing where you feel changes are needed. Thank you for your time in this matter.

In addressing the Village's request to open up the agreement for renegotiation, the Town Board wishes to accomplish one key objective – come to a consensus on an agreement that is fair in distributing the costs of operating the fire department that is unquestionably needed and valuable. In preparing this letter and the attached draft agreement language, the Town looked at the areas where we would like to see changes. We did not try to anticipate changes that the Village might feel are needed. Please do not read anything into the fact that we did not try to anticipate your request. We simply feel that you are in the best position to articulate them.

The Town looked at two changes to the agreement – one very specific and one general. The general change was to strive to clarify the language removing ambiguity, unnecessary words, and the like to clarify what we understand was the intent of the original agreement. However, we intentionally spent less time on those sections that you have already indicated you wanted to see changes because your request(s) would likely change these sections anyway.

The one area we specifically requested a change is covered in the *'Practice and Training'* and *'Mutual Aid'* sections of the attached draft. The simplest way to explain our logic for including these sections is to start with a hypothetical scenario in which the Town and the Village had separate fire departments. If we had separate and distinct departments, we each would incur the full cost of training our staff, providing mutual aid to surrounding communities, and paying for personnel and supplies during practices. By combining these hypothetical departments, we each benefit equally. Therefore, the costs associated with practice, training and mutual aid are more fairly distributed if shared equally as well.

Please mark up and comment on the changes proposed here. Once we have received your written reply to the Town's proposed changes, the Village's proposed changes to the agreement, and the Town has in turn provided the Village with a written reply to your requested changes, we should meet to work out any remaining details.

I realize that this whole process may take us into early 2009, but assuming we don't allow this work to drag on well into next year, I believe the Town Board members would likely be receptive to starting the new agreement on January 1, 2009.

Thank you again for your time and efforts on this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Don" being more prominent than the last name "Becker".

Don Becker
Chairman, Town of Holland

c: Richard Katte, Safety Committee Chairman
Village of Cedar Grove
22 Willow Avenue
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

Greg Navis, Chief
Cedar Grove Fire Department
306 S. Main Street
Cedar Grove, WI 53013